



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 22 May 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
22 MAY 1967

1. Arab States -
Israel

Israeli patrols, both land and air, crossed both the Egyptian and Jordanian frontiers over the weekend. These incursions have caused brief exchanges of fire, but neither side appears ready to expand them into a major clash.

The evacuation of United Nations forces is proceeding more slowly than expected from earlier evidence.

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Embassy Cairo reports that Egyptian officials, one of whom said he hoped Israel did start something, appear bellicose and confident they could win. "We will drive straight for Tel Aviv, and our air force will destroy every city and town in Israel in a matter of hours," said another official.

The embassy feels that this mood probably extends to Nasir himself, and concludes there is no doubt he is playing for keeps.

The Egyptians appear also to have talked themselves into believing stories of a US-Israeli plot against Syria. The embassy feels anti-US actions involving the American community in Egypt could erupt at any time.

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2. North Vietnam

At least 34 North Vietnamese jet fighters have been knocked out of action in aerial combat or by airfield bombing over the past month. Ten of these were shot out of the air this weekend.

This leaves Hanoi with about 46 fighters on the four bases in the Hanoi-Haiphong area.

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3. Hong Kong

Demonstrations are getting larger and more militant. The local Communists appear bent on provoking an incident, and they came fairly close yesterday and again this morning.

On both days raucous crowds, defying a ban on disorderly gatherings, came eyeball to eyeball with the police. In yesterday's melee, police used tear gas and clubs and made numerous arrests. This action has produced Communist screams of "police brutality" and charges that thousands were wounded, dead, or missing.

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4. Communist China

Posters saying that pro-Mao types are being massacred in some provinces continue to appear, and we continue to believe they are greatly exaggerated.

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We suspect this poster campaign is Peking's way of laying the groundwork for a reorganization of the local military commands.

5. Guinea

Nkrumah, still vegetating in Guinea surrounded by a dwindling bunch of semiliterate henchmen, last week made his first public speech in over a year.

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6. Soviet Union

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